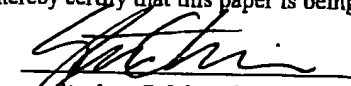


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Case No. 802-04RE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventors: **Brenner**

Serial No: **09/366,081**

Group Art Unit: **1635**

Filed: **2 August 1999**

Examiner: **M. Shibuya**

Title: **COMPOSITIONS FOR SORTING POLYNUCLEOTIDES**

Amendment**RECEIVED****MAY 17 2000**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Sir:

Further to the Amendment under 37 C.F.R. 1.312 submitted by Federal Express on 22 April 2000, please enter the following amendment:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph in Col. 15, lines 51-65, as follows:

a' "A general method for exposing the single stranded tag after amplification involves digesting a target polynucleotide-containing conjugate with the [5'→3'] 3'→5' exonuclease activity of T4 DNA polymerase, or a like enzyme. When used in the presence of a single nucleoside triphosphate, such a polymerase will cleave nucleotides from 3' recessed ends present on the non-template strand of a double stranded fragment until a complement of the single nucleoside triphosphate is reached on the template strand. When such a nucleotide is reached the [5'→3'] 3'→5' digestion effectively ceases, as the polymerase's extension activity adds nucleotides at a higher rate than the excision activity removes nucleotides. Consequently, tags constructed with three nucleotides are readily prepared for loading onto solid phase supports."